

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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-----201039Z 108984 /13

R 200031Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 013298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: FRG CONTRIBUTION TO PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZA-
TION

REF: (1) USNATO 0211; (B) STATE 012319; (C) BONN 00460

1. STATE AND DEFENSE NOTE RELUCTANCE OF FRG TO COMMIT
ITSELF TO BEAR COST OF UPGRADING M-48A2 TANKS WHICH IT IS
PREPARED TO GIVE PORTUGUESE MILITARY. EMBASSY BONN RE-
PORTED THAT FRG POSITION IS THAT US SHOULD PAY FOR THE TANK
UPGRADING (REFTEL A). GENERAL WUST ALSO EXPRESSED GERMAN
RELUCTANCE TO BEAR UPGRADING COSTS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS

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WITH US OFFICIALS (REFTEL C). HOWEVER, DOD SUGGESTED THAT,
SINCE US COMMITMENTS WERE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE, FRG SHOULD
BEAR UPGRADING COSTS, OR SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM
OTHER ALLIES. WUST RECEIVED THE SUGGESTION FAVORABLY.

2. DUE TO THE ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL USG FINANCIAL COMMITMENT
TO SUPPLY OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS FOR THE BRIGADE, WE BELIEVE

THAT THE FRG SHOULD BEAR THE ENTIRE COST FOR THE TANK UP-GRADING. THE FRG MAY WISH TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER ALLIES, EVEN THOUGH SUCH ASSISTANCE MAY NOT BE READILY OFFERED. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THE UPGRADING SHOULD BE DONE IN THE FRG, SINCE THE COST OF UPGRADING TANKS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE IF PERFORMED

OUTSIDE THE FRG (INCLUDING IN THE US).

3. IN LIGHT OF THE JANUARY 25 HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF FRG AUTHORITIES TO DECIDE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, WE BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE IMMEDIATE APPROACH TO GERMANS TO SECURE THEIR COMMITMENT TO UPGRADE THE M-48A2'S TO M-48A5'S. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO THE FRG:

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE FRG IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND IN EQUIPPING THE NATO-COMMITTED BRIGADE.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRG IS ABOUT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL M-48A2 TANKS AVAILABLE TO THE PORTUGUESE BRIGADE.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE PORTUGUESE NEED ASSURANCE THAT THE TANKS WILL BE UPGRADED TO M-48A5 AT AN EARLY DATE.

-- THE US URGES THE FRG AUTHORITIES TO UNDERTAKE THE UP-GRADING OF THE M-48A2 TANKS TO M-48A5'S. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL AND MORE EFFICIENT IF
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PERFORMED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

-- THE US HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPLYING A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF BRIGADE EQUIPMENT IN FY-1977. DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE COMMITMENT ALREADY MADE BY THE US, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO UPGRADE THE TANKS, OR BEAR THE COST OF UPGRADING THEM.

-- ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT OTHER ALLIES MAY PLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE AT NEXT AD HOC MEETING, SO MUCH IS NEEDED IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS THE US AND FRG TENTATIVELY PLAN TO CONTRIBUTE THAT WE WOULD HOPE THE FRG WOULD BEAR THE ENTIRE COST OF UPGRADING THE TANKS, SO THAT THE RESOURCES OF OTHER ALLIES COULD BE USED FOR ADDED ITEMS.

4. DOD CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: WE/KSMITH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770021-0486
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